IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Hiroshi YAMANE et al.

Conf.:

Appl. No.:

NEW DIVISIONAL

Group:

Filed:

January 30, 2004

Examiner:

Title:

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTINUOUS

CASTING OF METALS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 30, 2004

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 3 of this paper.

An $\mbox{\sc Appendix}$ is attached following the signature page of this paper.